

“He is Risen to Bring Us Forgiveness and Faith”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK 1 Peter 2:2, Psalm 81:1, 7, 10, 16

As newborn babes, Alle- | luia,*
desire the pure milk of the Word. Alleluia. Alle- | luia.
Sing aloud to | God our strength;*
make a joyful shout to the God of | Jacob.
You called in trouble, and I de- | livered you;*
I answered you in the secret place of | thunder.
I am the | Lord your God,*
who brought you out of the land of | Egypt;
open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it.*
With honey from the rock I would have sa- | tisfied you.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK John 20:29
“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
Almighty and merciful God, as You have brought us to celebrate the festival of the Lord's resurrection, cause us by Your grace to bring forth the fruits thereof in our life and conduct; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK TLH 196, LSB 468
I Am Content! My Jesus Liveth Still Johann J. Möller



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| <p>1. I am content! My Jesus liveth still,
In whom my heart is pleased.
He hath fulfilled the Law of God for me,
God's wrath He hath appeased.
Since He in death could perish never,
I also shall not die forever.
I am content! I am content!</p> <p>2. I am content! My Jesus is my Head;
His member I will be.
He bowed His head when on the cross
He died</p> | <p>With cries of agony.
Now death is brought into subjection
For me, too, by His resurrection.
I am content! I am content!</p> <p>5. I am content! Lord, draw me unto Thee
And wake me from the dead
That I may rise forevermore to be
With Thee, my living Head.
The fetters of my body sever,
Then shall my soul rejoice forever.
I am content! I am content!</p> |
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1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

3 PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

THEME OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Bring Us Forgiveness and Faith

The resurrection of Jesus brings us everything that we need. His cross and tomb and ascension into the heavens grants to us life and salvation, forgiveness and faith. We sit here on this spinning globe of ours and we stand in that very faith: a faith in our Lord Who has conquered all things and forgives all things. Will we doubt? Sure, we all have a little Thomas in us. Will we sin? Of course, our sinful flesh doesn't die until we do. Will the world hate us and the devil rail against us? Unfortunately, yes. But through all of that our victory is sure and our salvation is unmovable. For the Lord of life is risen from the grave and He has given Himself to us through water, Word, and Supper. We have what He has. We have victory. Sin, death, and the devil be damned.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-31—Doubting Thomas, Doubting Me

Thomas gets a bad rap. It's understandable. For the rest of human history he will be labeled with doubt. Who can blame him though? Dead men don't come back from the dead, and Jesus was dead. Well, He wasn't! But how would Thomas know? Just because Jesus had mentioned His resurrection many times before (Thomas reasoned) doesn't really mean anything. Even though he was an apostle, he was also a sinner. Sinners doubt. I do too. Every single day I doubt. But the promise of the resurrection is not that I would forever be steadfast and faithful to God, but that God would be forever steadfast and faithful to me. In the present, Thomas might be known as a doubter. Fine. I am too. But in eternity Thomas is only known as a forgiven sinner through the mercy of Christ. So am I. *Gracious Jesus, forgive my doubting ways and remain faithful to me. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 111—Praise the Lord

The Psalmist recounts the deeds of the past. They are great and majestic, just and faithful. They establish and bring salvation and redemption. Those are the works and deeds of our Lord. The Psalmist spends barely any time on the works of God's people. Why? Because it isn't about us. It is about God for us. The Psalmist, and we, give thanks to the Lord with all of our heart. The Lord is the one who provides salvation and forgiveness, comfort and righteousness. How do I know this? Because the tomb is empty. It's a shell with nothing inside. Jesus' grave has no body inside; and on the Last Day, neither will ours. This promise is mine, sealed with an empty grave, so it is my duty to thank and praise Him, serve and obey Him. This I will do! *Gracious God, Your works are unwavering, may they bring salvation today and always. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 5:4-12—Three That Testify

The Spirit, water, and blood testify. From the cross these three testified; springing forth in a Word from the lips of a dying Jesus, gushing out from the side of a Jesus who had given up His Spirit. They testified then and they testify now. We are born of God through water and the Word, that buries us in the death and resurrection of our Lord. We are given the gift of faith as His Spirit speaks Words of truth into our ears and makes us alive again in Christ Jesus. We are united with our resurrected Savior as He unites Himself with us through His very body and blood that hung on the tree for our salvation. What more testimony could we ever need than the testimony of God by the Spirit, the water, and the blood? Whoever has the Son has life. We have the Son, so we have life. *Holy Spirit, forever testify of our salvation in the death and resurrection of Christ. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Job 19:25-27—My Eyes Shall Behold

These eyes, the ones that I have right now, shall see God. Not some sort of "spiritual" eyes, not some sort of "fleshless" eyes, but these ones. The ones that I have in my own body, my own flesh shall behold, and not another. My resurrection will not make me something or someone else. The resurrection is of the body, this body. Jesus was resurrected in the body, ascended as such too. He did not slough off His humanity, but instead deemed it good, right, and salutary to remain in human flesh throughout eternity. His victory means my victory, so I will most certainly have just what He has. I know that my Redeemer lives! And because He lives, so will I; in the flesh, with fleshy feet and hands and yes, even eyes. I cannot wait to behold my God, standing before me in the flesh. *Jesus, raise my body on the Last Day to live eternally with You. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 21:15-19—Three-fold Forgiveness

Peter denied Jesus three times. Truth be told, he denied Him more than that. I wish I could say that I would have done better. Jesus comes to Peter and absolves him, "Follow Me," He says to him. Forgiveness is an amazing and mystifying thing, because it does away with all sorts of logic and reason. The Law says that we should be condemned for our unfaithfulness, and yet the Gospel speaks a different Word. This Word is one of forgiveness. It looks at our sinful unfaithfulness and declares it washed away, driven into Jesus on the cross and buried with Him in the tomb. But as Jesus burst forth from the tomb, He left our sin behind, buried forever in the cold tomb. There is nothing left to do but follow Him in faith. *Dearest Jesus, feed Your sheep with Your bread of life. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:17-2:3—The Precious Blood of Jesus

We have been ransomed by the precious blood of Jesus. No silver or gold could have ever done this. To be forgiven of sin, blood must be shed. We were held captive to sin, but not any longer. We have been born again. That is who we are. Newborn infants made holy in the waters of baptism. How could there be anything in us but love for our neighbors? There is no malice in Christ, only forgiveness. There is no deceit or hypocrisy or envy or slander, just forgiveness. For where the precious blood of Jesus has declared something or someone clean, it is clean. God sees you in the light of Christ and now you see your brothers and sisters in the very same light. There is no other way about it. This is who Christ has made you. This is who you now are: forgiven sinners who forgive the sins of others. *Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 4—Answer Me When I Call

In the light of the resurrection, how do we go about our daily life? How do we come to grips with the fact that there are those around us that continually sin against us? How do we deal with the reality that our own sinful flesh still creeps up inside of us? How do we find comfort when death approaches and the devil whispers his lies? It is only in the assurance of Christ Jesus' resurrection from the dead and that He has conquered all of these things, that I too have the victory over them. It may not look like or feel like it. It may actually seem to be the exact opposite of what God has promised. But none of that is our reality. The reality is that God loves us to the tomb and back again. And yes, He answers us when we call. How could He do anything else? *In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O Lord make me dwell in safety. Amen.*

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